NUMB. CLIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Omnia transformant ſeſe in miracula rerum. Virg.

Monday, September 8. 1713.

I Queſtion not but the following Letter will be very Entertaining to thoſe who were preſent at the late Maſquerade, as it will recall into their Minds ſeveral merry Particulars that paſſed in it, and, at the ſame time, be very acceptable to thoſe who were at a Diſtance from it, as they may form from hence ſome Idea of this faſhionable Amuſement.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE *Eſq;*

Per Via Leonis.

SIR,

'I Could ſcarce ever go into good Company, 'but the Diſcourſe was on the Ambaſſador, 'the Politeneſs of his Entertainments, the Good-'neſs of his *Burgundy* and *Champaign*, the Gaiety 'of his Maſquerades, with the odd fantaſtical 'Dreſſes which were made uſe of in thoſe Mid-'night Solemnities. The Noiſe theſe Diverſions 'made, at laſt, raiſed my Curioſity, and for once I 'reſolved to be preſent at them, being at the ſame 'provoked to it by a Lady I then made my Ad-'dreſſes to, one of a ſprightly Humour, and a great 'Admirer of ſuch Novelties. In order to it I bur-'ried my Habit, and got it ready a Week before 'the time, for I grew impatient to be initiated in 'theſe new Myſteries. Every Morning I dreſt 'my ſelf in it, and acted before the Looking-glaſs, 'ſo that I am vain enough to think I was as perfect 'in my Part, as moſt who had oftener frequented 'theſe Diverſions. You muſt underſtand I perſon-'ated a *Devil*, and that for ſeveral weighty Rea-'ſons. Firſt, becauſe appearing as one of that 'Fraternity, I expected to meet with particular Ci-'vilities from the more polite and better bred part 'of the Company. Beſides as from their uſual 'Reception they are called Familiars, I fancied 'I ſhould, in this Character, be allowed the great-'eſt Liberties, and ſooneſt be led into the Secrets 'of the Maſquerade. To recommend and diſtin-'guiſh me from the Vulgar, I drew a very long 'Taile after me. But to ſpeak the Truth what 'perſuaded me moſt to this Diſguiſe was, be-'cauſe I heard an Intriguing Lady ſay, in a large 'Company of Females, who unanimouſly aſſented 'to it, that ſhe loved to converſe with ſuch, for 'that generally they were very clever Fellows who 'made Choice of that Shape. At length, when the 'long wiſhed for Evening came, which was to 'open to us ſuch vaſt Scenes of Pleaſure, I repair-'ed to the Place appointed about ten at Night, 'where I found Nature turned top ſide turvy, Wo-'men changed into Men, and Men into Women, 'Children in Leading ſtrings taller Foot high, 'Courtiers transformed into Clowns, Ladies of 'the Night into Saints, People of the firſt Quality 'into Beaſts or Birds, Gods or Goddeſſes; I 'fancied I had had all *Ovid*'s *Metamorphoſes* before 'me. Among theſe were ſeveral Monſters to which 'I did not know how to give a Name;

——————————*worſe*
Than Fables yet have feigned, or fear conceived,
Gorgons and Hydra's, and Chimera's dire. Milton.

'In the middle of the firſt Room I met with one 'dreſt in a *Shrowd*. This put me in mind of the 'old Cuſtom of ſerving up a Death's Head at a 'Feaſt. I was a little angry at the Dreſs, and 'asked the Gentleman whether he thought a Dead 'Man was fit Company for ſuch an Aſſembly; but 'he told me, that he was one who loved his Mony, 'and

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